

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 021550Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3770
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0258

EXDIS

E.O. 1162: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, AG, MO, SS, US

SUBJECT: ALGERIANS REQUEST CLARIFICATION ON PROVISION US MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO MOROCCO

REF: STATE 024882

1. I BRIEFED ABERKANE ON CONTENT OF ALL THREE PARAGRAPHS
REFTEL JAN 31, OMITTING REFERENCE SECOND PARAGRAPH TO
INFORMATION IN STATE 275276 AS THIS INFORMATION NEVER
PASSED TO ALGERIANS.

2. ABERKANE WAS VISIBLY RELIEVED AT ASSURANCES THAT
REPORTS WERE FALSE. HE TOOK COPIOUS NOTES DURING
PRESENTATION OF FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS REFTEL AND LISTENED
ATTENTIVELY TO THIRD SESSION. HE STATED HE WOULD
IMMEDIATELY PASS ON FULL RESPONSE TO BOUTEFLIKA. HE
SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION EXPRESSED PARA THREE REFTEL.

3. CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE IN CONTEXT PRESS HEADLINES
ABOUT INCREASING US
MILITARY AID TO MOROCCO AND
LAMRANI DISCUSSIONS WITH KISSINGER.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE PRESENTATION SET OUT REFTEL
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ADMIRABLY TAILORED FOR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE CLEAR IDEA, HOWEVER, ABOUT ALGERIAN VIEW OF OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH RABAT.

6. ON ONE HAND, ALGERIANS VIEW BASED ON PARANOID BUT DEEPLY-HELD BELIEF THAT ALGERIAN REVOLUTION IS CENTER TARGET OF WORLD-WIDE IMPERIALIST PLOTTING. MOST ALGERIANS INSTINCTIVELY ACCEPT VIEW THAT AMERICANS ARE GOING TO BE ON OTHER SIDE; THIS VIEW REINFORCED BY DAILY MEDIA POUNDING.

7. THIS BELIEF ALLOWS US SOME LATITUDE. SINCE ALGERIANS ALREADY PERSUADED WE AMONG ENEMIES, CONTINUING MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH RABAT ONLY TO BE EXPECTED OF US, AND WHILE DEPLORABLE AND RESENTED, ALREADY FACTORED INTO ALGERIAN VIEW OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH US.

8. ON OTHER HAND, PROSPECT OF INCREASE IN AMOUNTS OR IN SOPHISTICATION OF US SUPPLIES TO RABAT IS NOT ALREADY FACTORED INTO THEIR THINKING. THUS, FLIMSY REPORTS OF AMERICAN AIRLIFT OF TANKS TO SUPPORT MOROCCO IN RESPONSE TO ANGOLA INCIDENT PROVOKED IMMEDIATE BOUTEFILKA DEMARCHE WHICH REFLECTED GENUINE ALGERIAN DISMAY.

9. IN SHORT, DESPITE GROUND HAVING BEEN PREPARED BY PRESENTATION REFTEL, WE CAN EXPECT 24 F-5S AND OTHER STEPPED-70 ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO TO UPSET ALGERIAN CALCULATIONS AS TO NATURE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH US. WHILE ON BALANCE WE BELIEVE ALGERIANS HAVE MORE TO LOSE THAN TO GAIN BY OVERREACTING, WE MAY HAVE A ROCKY TIME WHILE THEY REAPPRAISE RELATIONS. LYNE

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